

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 1/28/16**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held January 28, 2016. Attending: Dean Bennett, Larry Young, Meghann Carter, Bernie Pepin, Duane Moulton, Richard Colburn Sr, Teri Gray and Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting were accepted as written.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Following up on the last meeting, Duane Moulton reports that the new state commander is committed to keeping dispatching the way it is, and the area should not see any changes with respect to dispatching for at least two years. It is not necessary to sign on with Newport or budget dispatching fees. Larry Young also learned that a state bill on the matter will most likely sit.

Regarding the discussion of altering delinquent tax collector compensation, Richard Colburn asked the board to delay any changes until the current delinquent tax collector no longer wants the office. Dean stated that he appreciates the service provided by Grace Frizzell, her late husband, and the entire family and would be happy to see it stay the same. He would also like to start the conversation somehow, as the board must consider what's best for the town. Dean moves to table the discussion until Grace notifies the board that she is ready to retire, seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The board reviewed a proposed 2016 budget. Meghann made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry and approved.

Larry moved to raise the salary of the Road Foreman and both highway crew members by \$.25/hr to begin with first pay period in February, seconded by Meghann and approved.

A draft 2016 Town Meeting Warning was approved and signed.

After being approached by members of the Echo Lake Protective Association, Dean proposed that the town look into correcting road erosion and discharge into the lake on East Echo Lake Rd. Colleen will contact Alan May of the Better Backroads grant program. Dean will contact ELPA Co-President Patti Lennon.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT

Bernie Pepin reports that Truck 2 is back online, and the crew is working on firewood. Discussion of contacting landowners to request taking trees in the right-of-way for firewood. Larry agreed that cutting in some areas might help dry up roads and emphasized safety equipment requirements.

Colleen reports that the Hudson Road Hazard Mitigation grant project is not eligible for FEMA funding unless it can avoid the flood plain area. Larry moved to abandon the hazard mitigation grant and move ahead with gravel already stockpiled and culvert replacement this year, second by Dean and approved. Colleen will explore Better Backroads funding, especially for the cement culvert at Bowen Hill culvert, and review the most recent Better Backroads inventory.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. The next business meeting is February 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Selectboard, Town of Charleston